



## Conservation Leaders Applaud Legislation to Fully Fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund

“We know that connecting with nature is linked to stronger communities and improved health, and the introduction of a bill that would fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund is terrific news,” **said Diane Regas, President and CEO of The Trust for Public Land.** “Full and dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund would mean more access to nature for more people in every state in our country. I want to thank Senators Manchin and Gardner for their strong support of this critical program.”

“These 14 cosponsors from across the political spectrum demonstrate the broad support and sweeping benefits of this program for outdoor recreation, for wild places and for local communities,” **said Jamie Williams, President of the Wilderness Society.** “The Land and Water Conservation Fund has provided benefits nationwide that span geographic and political divides.”

“Every dollar diverted from LWCF leaves local communities with less resources to make investments that boost tourism and increase the outdoor recreation economy,” **said Tom Cors, Director of Government Relations for Lands at The Nature Conservancy and a spokesman for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition.** “After the historic vote to permanently authorize LWCF, it’s time to keep the promise made to the American people more than 50 years ago: That government revenues from offshore drilling are used to preserve and protect our greatest outdoor places. We thank the sponsors of this important legislation for their work to meet this commitment to America’s communities, economy, and special landscapes.”

“BHA members on the ground are more aware than ever about the critical role played by LWCF in our hunting and angling opportunities, fish and wildlife populations and shared lands and waters – and we are committed to seeing a full, dedicated funding bill passed and signed into law,” **said Land Tawney, President and CEO, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers.**

“Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) projects have protected and expanded recreation access for all activities across the country and we thank Senator Cory Gardner and Senator Joe

Manchin for introducing bipartisan legislation to provide permanent, full funding for the program,” **said Jessica Wahl, Executive Director of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable.** “Mandatory funding for the LWCF will unleash the program’s true potential – ensuring local communities and economies that depend on sustainable outdoor recreation will continue to flourish – and we stand ready to work with Congress to get this critical measure across the finish line.”

“This is one of the smartest investments Congress can make,” **said Whit Fosburgh, President and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.** “The Land and Water Conservation Fund has made a lasting impact in every state in America, spurring increased access and more recreational opportunity. This legislation will send meaningful resources to ground that benefit hunters and anglers for generations to come.”

“Our nation’s \$887 billion outdoor recreation economy depends on consistent funding for public lands and waters in order to provide access to the outdoors in every state and county in America,” **said Patricia Rojas-Ungar, Outdoor Industry Association, Vice President of Government Affairs.** “We applaud the bipartisan leaders in Congress who succeeded in permanently authorizing LWCF earlier this year. The outdoor industry stands ready to work with Congress to ensure that this premier program also actually receives full funding by annually dedicating \$900 million to LWCF. We are pleased to see this new legislation and urge Congress to act quickly and decisively to pass full, dedicated funding for America’s outdoors.”

“The recent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund is a victory for the outdoor recreation community. LWCF has touched nearly all Americans who get outside, providing better river access, creating trail networks, and preserving high-quality landscapes in every state. Outdoor Alliance looks forward to working with lawmakers to secure dedicated funding for LWCF to make the promise of the program real,” **said Adam Cramer, Executive Director of Outdoor Alliance.**

“Dedicated full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund is imperative to making sure our children and grandchildren will have access to fresh water, clean air and the nation’s protected lands,” **said Kim Elliman, President and CEO of the Open Space Institute.** “We wholeheartedly commend the bipartisan group of Senators who are pushing ahead to secure necessary and dependable funding to maintain the LWCF as the nation’s premier program aimed at protecting our natural resources.”

“While permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund was a major win for our nation’s treasured landscapes and outdoor recreation economy, we know the true promise of this program cannot be realized without full, dedicated funding,” **said John Judge, President and CEO of the Appalachian Mountain Club.** “AMC is proud to partner with bipartisan Congressional champions in support of LWCF, and we thank them for years of tireless advocacy on behalf of our mountains, forests, trails, coastlines, and parks. We look forward to continuing to work with the LWCF Coalition and stakeholders across the country to enact full, dedicated funding of LWCF for all of us who love to be outdoors.”

"At the Washington Association of Land Trusts, we represent 28 organizations across Washington State and over 51,000 supporters of private land conservation," **said Nick Norton, Executive Director, Washington Association of Land Trusts.** "On behalf of us all, I urge support for full, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). By helping protecting our most precious forest resources, iconic wilderness areas, and public open spaces, LWCF remains absolutely critical to helping meet the environmental, economic, and social needs of our growing state. This is a tremendous opportunity to create a lasting environmental legacy and stand up for our quality of life now and in future generations."

"While The Mountaineers is thrilled by the bipartisan passage of the Public Lands Management Act of 2019 - which included permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) - Congress now needs to fully fund the program," **said Tom Vogl, CEO, The Mountaineers.** "Hailed as one of the most effective tools we have to conserve land and improve outdoor recreation opportunities, LWCF needs dedicated, full funding for continued success. Washington's vibrant outdoor recreation scene and so many of the places where we love to play would not be what it is today without the Land and Water Conservation Fund."

### **About the Land and Water Conservation Fund**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is America's most important conservation program, responsible for protecting parks, trails, wildlife refuges and recreation areas at the federal, state and local level. For more than 50 years, it has provided critical funding for land and water conservation projects, access to recreation including hunting and fishing, and the continued historic preservation of our nation's iconic landmarks from coast-to-coast.

LWCF does not use any taxpayer dollars – it is funded using a small portion of revenues from offshore oil and gas royalty payments. Outdoor recreation, conservation and historic preservation activities contribute more than \$887 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 7.6 million jobs.

### **About the LWCF Coalition**

The LWCF Coalition is comprised of more than 1,000 state and regional conservation and recreation organizations of all sizes, land owners, small businesses, ranchers, sportsmen, veterans, the outdoor recreation industry and conservationists working together to protect America's public lands and safeguard our shared outdoor heritage for future generations.

The Coalition is united in its advocacy for the permanent reauthorization and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which will ensure the continued conservation of our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness, civil war battlefields, working lands and state and local parks. For more information on LWCF and the places in each state that LWCF funds have protected, visit [www.lwcfcoalition.org](http://www.lwcfcoalition.org).